

# FAX

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**TO:** Renata Hesse  
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**Fax:** (202)616-9937 or (202)307-1454

**Subject:** Microsoft Antitrust Settlement Public Comment

**Message:**

Attached are my comments for your consideration.

January 23, 2002

**Renata Hesse**  
Trial Attorney, Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
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Re: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Microsoft must be stopped. Their continuing predatory, monopolistic practices are a deadly threat to innovation in the computer industry. Ultimately, without the influence of competition, the incredible advances in computer technology that we have continued to see will stop. Microsoft will no longer have any incentive to innovate.

Microsoft has never shown the ability, or inclination, to develop new technologies. Their modus operandi has been to copy popular products, make slight variations to avoid obvious patent violations, and then give them away for free with their operating system, thus killing the competitor. Every one knows this, but few have the resources to combat them. Since the "Justice" Department has given up the fight, it is critical that the States' case prevail, before the damage Microsoft inflicts on society becomes irreparable. It is already too late for many vibrant companies that have been laid waste, as follows:

Borland and Lotus created spreadsheets that revolutionized business. Microsoft copied that idea and gave it away for free with their operating system. Now there is no longer a spreadsheet industry, there is only Microsoft.

Apple's Macintosh Operating System was brilliantly intuitive and proved to the world that personal computers could be useful to the common man. Microsoft brazenly stole that concept, re-designed DOS around it, gave it a new name, then strong-armed PC makers into installing Microsoft operating systems. Now Apple clings to a 5 per cent market share, and only exists at the mercy of Microsoft.

There are two reasons why Microsoft allows Apple to survive. One is because if Apple was killed, then there would be no question that Microsoft is a monopoly. The second is that, if Apple was gone, Microsoft would have no one to steal ideas from any more.

Now victorious over all of the software industry, Microsoft moves on to the Internet. By giving away Explorer for free, they have all but eliminated Netscape. This is an obscene travesty. It makes a mockery of the anti-trust laws.

Now Microsoft has its sights set on Sun's Java, Apple's QuickTime, Linux, and the list goes on. The sad part is that Java and Linux are designed to make the Internet a platform for everyone to use freely, sharing ideas that would benefit all Internet users, ultimately leading to a more efficient on-line community. Microsoft would subvert this whole concept by bastardizing this on-line software to operate only on Windows. By doing this they would eventually eliminate independent on-line programming and all potential Internet competition.

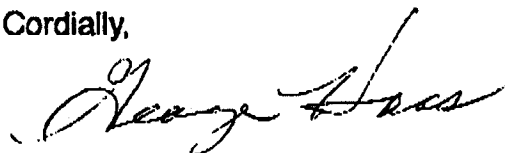
Microsoft never stops to consider the cost of damage done to consumers through the loss of opportunities that alternative resources could provide. Nor do they consider the damage done to economies all over the world that will never have the benefit of potential productivity gains that would have occurred in a truly free marketplace.

There are some resources, services, and industries, e.g., oil, gold, the postal service, or rail lines, that are strategically too important to be controlled by a single corporate entity. The Internet is that kind of resource. It is already too late for the software industry. Please save the Internet from this scourge.

Finally, please consider the threat to national security if the world comes to rely on Microsoft operating systems, carrying a vast majority of the world's email correspondence. They have never proven that they can be made secure from virus attacks, or from their own design flaws. Nor has Microsoft ever proven that it can be trusted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,



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cc: Congressman Mike Honda